



Fact Sheet

437th Airlift Wing Charleston AFB

MISSION

The 437th Airlift Wing is the host unit at Charleston Air Force Base and together with our Reserve sister wing, the 315th Airlift Wing, provides a large part of Air Mobility Command's Global Reach airlift capabilities.

These capabilities are best articulated by the wing's mission statement: *--professionals working together to support, train and provide the world's best airlift force for America.*

The mission of the 437th AW is to command assigned airlift and supporting units; provide for the airlift of troops and passengers, military equipment, mail and aeromedical airlift and to participate in operations involving the airland or airdrop of troops, equipment and supplies when required. Apart from having a heavy airdrop commitment and a demanding humanitarian mission, Charleston AFB's mission requirements range from supporting U.S. Embassies to supplying humanitarian airlift relief to victims of disasters, to airdropping troops into the heart of contingency operations in hostile areas.

Team Charleston's vision is best described as providing the premier airlift force for America from the world's premier base.

**Public Affairs Office, Charleston Air Force Base,
Charleston, S.C. Tel: (843) 963-5608 Fax: (843) 963-5604**

Web Site: www.charleston.af.mil
E-mail: tracy.velino@charleston.af.mil

TEAM CHARLESTON OVERVIEW

- **People:**

Active Duty	3,870
Reserve	2,300
Civilian	1,370
DoD Retirees	14,025 (within 294XX zip code)
Dependents	4,170
- **Aircraft:** C-17 40*
 * This is Total Aircraft Inventory (includes primary and spare aircraft. Charleston will have 54 C-17s by October 2003).
- **Real Estate:**

Acres	3,733 (2,300 add'l at North Field)
Buildings	1,198
Family units	1,465
Dormitories	approx. 535 beds (7 buildings)
Temporary lodging	approx. 246 beds
- **Tenant Units assigned:**

315th Airlift Wing (AFRC)
1st Combat Camera Squadron
373rd Training Squadron, AETC
C-17 Flight Test Facility

437th AW KEY PERSONNEL

Brig. Gen. (select) Vern M. "Rusty" Findley II
 437th AW Commander

Col. Karl B. Young
 437th AW Vice Commander

CMSgt. Harvey E. Hampton
 437th AW Command Chief Master Sergeant

Col. Robert R. Allardice
 437th Operations Group Commander

Col. Donald R. Gallion
 437th Logistics Group Commander

Col. Dennis M. Kaan
 437th Support Group Commander

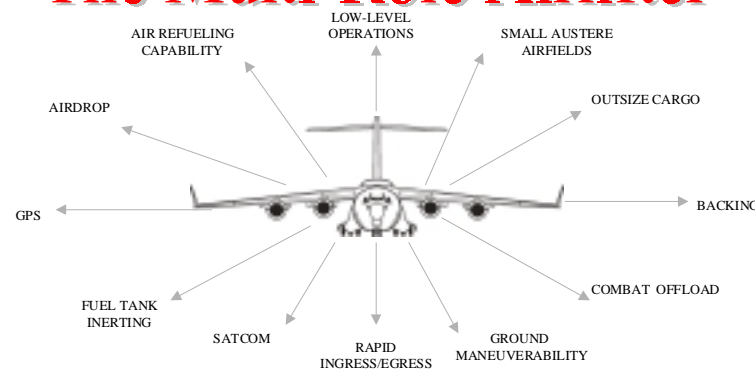
Col. Regina C. Aune
 437th Medical Group Commander

C-17 GLOBEMASTER III



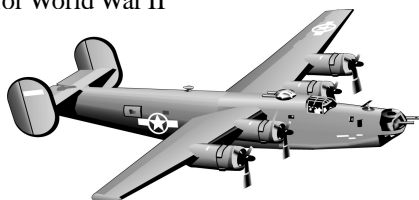
- **Crew Size:** Three: pilot, co-pilot, loadmaster
- **Unit Cost:** \$196.9 million (FY00)
- **Mission:** Rapid strategic delivery of troops and all types of cargo to main operating bases or directly to forward bases in the deployment area, also able to perform tactical airlift and airdrop missions
- **Features:** Heads-up display, can airdrop both cargo and 102 paratroopers, able to land on small, austere airfields--landing in as short as 3,000 feet
- **Dimensions:** Length: 174 ft; Height: 55 ft, 1 in; Wingspan: 169 ft, 10 in
- **Cruise Speed:** 518 mph at 28,000 feet (Mach .74)
- **Range:** Global with in-flight refueling
- **Cargo:** Maximum load is 170,000 pounds. Can fit two large buses, three helicopters, one of the Army's newest tanks or other outsized cargo

The Multi-Role Airlifter



HISTORY

- 1931** An airfield and flying service were established at Charleston Municipal Airport
- 1941** The Army Air Corp took control of the airfield to establish a defense for the eastern coast of the U.S. for World War II
- 1942** The first flights, consisting of anti-submarine missions, took off from Charleston Army Air Field
- 1943** The 437th Troop Carrier Group was activated at Baer Field, Indiana
- 1945** The 437th was inactivated after its participation in the Battle of the Bulge
- 1946** Military operations at the airfield closed
- 1949** The 437th was reactivated into the Reserves
- 1952** The city of Charleston and the Air Force agreed to establish a Troop carrier base and allow joint use of the runways. The 456th Troop Carrier Wing became the host unit under Tactical Air Command
- 1956** The base was transferred to the command of Military Air Transport Service. The 1608th Air Transport Wing became the host unit
- 1966** MATS became Military Airlift Command and the 1608th was discontinued. The 437th Military Airlift Wing was reactivated and assigned to Charleston AFB. All the equipment from the 1608th was reassigned to the 437th
- 1991** The 437th MAW was redesignated as the 437th Airlift Wing when Military Airlift Command became Air Mobility Command
- 1993** In June, the 17th Airlift Squadron became the first operational squadron in the Air Force to convert to the C-17A Globemaster III
- 2000** The 16th Airlift Squadron was inactivated July 15, marking the end of 35 years of C-141 Starlifters based out of Charleston AFB.



CHARLESTON AFB PLANES, PAST TO PRESENT

<i>B-17</i>	<i>C-121</i>
<i>B-24</i>	<i>C-124</i>
<i>C-46</i>	<i>C-130</i>
<i>C-47</i>	<i>C-5</i>
<i>C-54</i>	<i>C-141</i>
<i>C-119</i>	<i>C-17</i>

WING ORGANIZATIONS

- **437th Operations Group:** Distinguishes itself by projection of America's global reach through direct delivery, airdrop and air refueling.
- **437th Logistics Group:** Dedicated to performing organizational and intermediate-level maintenance on all assigned C-141 and C-17 aircraft; also provides total logistics support for the wing.
- **437th Support Group:** Provides morale, welfare, security, engineering, communications, food services, housing, lodging, disaster preparedness, and much more base support for 63 organizations.
- **437th Medical Group:** Supports combat readiness through training and quality managed healthcare for area beneficiaries.
- **437th Special Staff:** Includes a variety of agencies that directly support the wing commander, group commanders and the base populace.

C-17 FLYING SQUADRONS

- The **14th, 15th and 17th** Airlift Squadrons provide combat-ready C-17 aircrews for worldwide strategic airlift missions. From support of unconventional warfare, to carrying troops and cargo for airdrop missions, to delivering humanitarian airlift, these crews are ready at a moment's notice to carry out mobility requirements for the Air Force.

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE KEY FACTS

- Charleston AFB is a joint-use airfield. We share two intersecting runways with Charleston International Airport. Our primary runway is 9,001 feet long and the intersecting runway is 7,000 feet long. The base maintains the two runways and most of the taxiways.
- Charleston AFB was the first fully operational C-17 base in the Air Force, and in July 1999, McChord AFB, Wash., began C-17 operations.
- Charleston AFB is constantly involved in the Denton Amendment program--flying humanitarian aid on available missions to world-wide destinations.
 - ◆ From October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999, the Denton program moved 14,428,698 lbs. Over 11,000,000 lbs were Hurricane Mitch relief supplies. Charleston AFB either prepared or moved about 80 percent of this cargo.
- In 1999, Charleston AFB accepted six of the 60-k Tunner loaders that can easily transport and load heavy, palletized cargo on all aircraft. Additionally, Charleston AFB has 4,825 computers and 698 vehicles owned by the gov't.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Charleston AFB's economic impact on the local communities in fiscal year 1999 was more than \$439.3 million.
 - ◆ FY 99 payroll was \$128.3 million
 - ◆ Approximately 2,737 indirect jobs were created by the base in FY 99
 - ◆ The estimated annual dollar value of new jobs is \$108 million.
 - ◆ Each month, Air Force reservists assigned to the 315th AW spend nearly \$90,000 on hotels near the base.
 - ◆ The Air Force is the second largest employer in Charleston's metro area.

RECENT DEPLOYMENTS

- In CY 1999, 1,189 Team Charleston members deployed and 2,326 tons of cargo were transported in support of contingency operations; and 2,284 training and 2,055 real-world missions were flown.
- Charleston aircrews deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany, on Mar. 20 and flew 635 missions to move the Army's tanks, force protection and support equipment for 24 Apache helicopters to Tirana, Albania. Overall, C-17s, mostly from Charleston AFB, flew more than 1,200 missions in support of Operation Allied Force.

- Charleston AFB C-17 aircrews carried their biggest air-breathing passenger Sept. 9, 1998, when Keiko the whale received a first-class flight to his Icelandic home. The C-17 is the only aircraft in the world capable of landing on that short, unimproved runway with a load the size of Keiko.
- Last year our aircrews flew to 153 of the world's 197 countries. We went to almost every country that has an airfield.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- About 60 percent of our military members and their families live in the local communities, as do most of our civilian employees.
 - ◆ Personnel volunteer for many local programs to include the Charleston Homeless Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- In 1999, Charleston AFB hosted 103 community relations events for more than 4,039 guests.
 - ◆ We arranged 11 C-17 orientation flights for opinion leaders, and set up 47 ROTC and JROTC tours--giving an "inside look" at the Air Force to recruitable audiences.
 - ◆ We conducted four tours for civic leaders from other states.

SAFETY

- In fiscal 1999 the 437th Airlift Wing flew 41,228 total flying hours--all mishap free.
- Charleston's 16th Airlift Squadron has accumulated more than 916,000 accident-free flying hours, ranking them number one in the Air Force.
 - ◆ Equivalent to flying one airplane non-stop for more than 104.5 years without an accident
- Charleston's 14th Airlift Squadron has accumulated more than 774,000 accident-free flying hours, ranking them number three in the Air Force.
 - ◆ Equivalent to more than 88 years flying one airplane without an accident
- Charleston's 17th Airlift Squadron has accumulated more than 326,000 accident-free flying hours, while the 15th Airlift Squadron has accumulated more than 129,500.

